Statement

The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) reaffirms the international community's commitment towards the construction of a better world by 2030. However, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires an effective and comprehensive follow-up and review mechanism in order to ensure that countries are on the right track to meet the SDGs. We have come a long way to ensure that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is ambitious, reachable, and inclusive; therefore, we must ensure the fulfilment of these goals.

As civil society organizations working at the grassroots level, we recognize our responsibilities regarding sustainable development. Our proximity to our communities makes civil society organizations knowledgeable and vital partners for development efforts. Our closeness to the people allows us to understand and take action based on the needs and concerns required to develop accurate local and national development policies. To this end, we are sharing our concern about the lack of national and local development plans aligning with the 2030 Agenda. National and local targets are essential for the success of the SDGs, and must be constructed and adopted by all stakeholders, especially non-state actors.

We applaud the efforts of Member States and the United Nations System to develop parameters for a follow-up and review framework based on existing platforms. However, we must continue to build on efforts at the national and local levels while also taking into account universality, ownership, participation, monitoring, results and transparency. Civil society organizations can contribute significantly to the follow-up and review process in the upcoming years. Their professionalism and closeness to the realities of communities are great assets for monitoring contributions and overall progress of the 2030 Agenda. The multi-level approach that the SDGs had envisioned must also include the concerns of local and municipal governments and organizations. The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development can be a leading conference for these community-based approaches.

Throughout the construction of the 2030 Agenda, civil society organizations demonstrated their leadership and interest in participating at all stages of this new global development agenda. In Mexico, for example, civil society organizations such as ours led wide consultation processes among hundreds of thousands of citizens to identify their priorities within the SDGs thanks to the My World Survey. We hope Member States will continue to include citizens' voices in the review and implementation process through open and democratic platforms such as the ones developed during the construction of the SDGs in the last three years.

We believe that the HLPF in this first review process will facilitate the conditions and support to achieve an open, transparent, accountable and functional revision of the SDGs for 2030 in which civil society organizations and other stakeholders play a key role.